

1689
(125)
THE
DECLARATION
OF THE
Lords and Commons

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Assembled at ~~westminster~~; presented to their HIGHNESSES
the Prince and Princess of ~~Orange~~, at ~~whitehall~~,
the 13th. of February, 168⁹.

W Hereas the Late King *James* the Second, by the Assistance of divers
Evil Counsellors, Judges and Ministers, imployed by him, did en-
deavour to Subvert and Extirpate the Protestant Religion, and the Laws and
Liberties of this Kingdom,

By Assuming and Exercising a Power of Dispensing with, and Suspending of
Laws, and the Execution of Laws, without Consent of Parliament.

By Committing and Prosecuting divers worthy Prelats, for Humbly Peti-
tioning to be Excus'd from Concurring to the said Assum'd Power.

By Issuing and Causing to be executed a Commission under the Great Seal,
for Erecting a Court called, the Court of Commissioners for Ecclesiastical
Causes.

By Levying Mony for, and to the Use of the Crown, by Pretence of Pre-
rogative, for other time, and in other manner than the same was Granted by
Parliament.

By Raising and Keeping a Standing Army within this Kingdom, in time of
Peace, without Consent of Parliament, and Quartering Souldiers contrary to
Law.

By Causing several Good Subjects, being Protestants, to be Disarm'd, at the
same time when Papists were both Armed and Imployed contrary to Law.

By Violating the Freedom of Election of Members to serve in Parliament.

By prosecutions in the Court of *Kings-Bench*, for Matters and Causes Cogniz-
able only in Parliament, and by divers other Arbitrary and Illegal Courses.

And whereas of late Years, Partial, Corrupt, and Unqualified Persons have
been Return'd, and Served on Juries in Tryals, and particularly divers Jurors in
Tryals for High Treason, which were not Free-holders.

And Excessive Bail hath been Required of Persons Committed in Criminal
Causes, to Exclude the Benefit of the Laws made for the Liberty of the Sub-
jects.

And Excessive Fines have been Imposed, and Illegal and Cruel punishments inflicted.
And several Grants and Promises made of Fines and Forfeitures, before any Conviction or Judgment
against the Persons upon whom the same were to be Levied.

All which are utterly and directly contrary to the known Laws and Statutes, and Freedom of this
Realm.

And Whereas the said Late King *James* the Second having Abdicated the Government, and the Throne
being thereby Vacant.

His Highness the Prince of *Orange* (whom It hath pleased Almighty God to make the Glorious Instru-
ment of Delivering this Kingdom from Popery and Arbitrary power) did, by the Advice of the Lords
Spiritual and Temporal, and divers principal persons of the Commons, Cause Letters to be Written to
the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, being Protestants: And other Letters to the several Countie
Universities, Cities, Boroughs, and Cinque Ports, for the Choosing of such persons to Represent them as
were of Right to be sent to Parliament, to Meet and Sit at *westminster*, upon the two and Twentieth Day
of *January*, In this Year, 1688. in order to such an Establishment, as that their Religion, Laws, and
Liberties might not again be in Danger of being Subverted.

Upon which Letters, Elections have been accordingly made: And thereupon the said Lords Spiritual
and

England Parliament

and Temporal and the Commons pursuant to their respective Letters and Elections, being now Assembled in a full and free Representative of this Nation, taking into their most Serious Consideration the best means for attaining the Ends aforesaid.

Do in the first place, as their Ancestors in like cases have usually done, for the Vindicating and asserting their Ancient Rights and Liberties, Declare,

That the pretended power of Suspending of Laws, or the Execution of Laws by Regal Authority, without consent of Parliament, is illegal.

That the pretended Power of dispensing with Laws, or the Execution of Laws by Regal Authority, as it has been Assumed and Exercised of late, is illegal.

That the Commission for Erecting the late Court of Commissioners for Ecclesiastical Causes, and all other Commissions and Courts of like nature, are illegal and pernicious.

That Levying of Money for or to the Use of the Crown by pretence of Prerogative; without Grant of Parliament, or for longer time, or in other manner than the same is, or shall be granted, is illegal.

That it is the Right of the Subjects to petition the King, and all Commitments and prosecutions for such Petitioning, are illegal.

That the Raising or keeping of a Standing Army within the Kingdom, in time of peace, unless it be with consent of Parliament, is against Law.

That the Subjects, which are Protestants, may have Arms for their Defence suitable to their Condition, and as allowed by Law.

That Election of Members of Parliament ought to be Free.

That the Freedom of Speech and Debates, or proceedings in Parliament, ought not to be Impeached or Questioned in any Court or place, out of Parliament.

That Excessive Bail ought not to be Required, nor Excessive Fines Imposed, nor Cruel and Unusual punishments Inflicted.

That Jurors ought to be duly Impaneled and Returned; and Jurors, which pass upon Men in Tryal for High Treason, ought to be Freeholders.

That all Grants and promises of Fines and Forfeitures of particular persons, before Conviction, are illegal and void.

And that for redress of all Grievances, and for the Amending, Strengthening and preserving of the Laws, Parliaments ought to be held frequently.

And they do Claim, Demand, and insist upon all and singular the Premises, as they are undoubted Rights and Liberties; And that no Declarations, Judgements, Doings, or proceedings, to the Prejudice of the People, in any of the said Premises, ought in any wise to be drawn hereafter into Consequence of Example.

To which Demand, of their Rights, they are particularly encouraged by the Declaration of his Highness the Prince of Orange, as being the only Means for obtaining a full Redress and Remedy therein.

Having therefore an intire Confidence, that his said Highness the Prince of Orange, will Perfect the Deliverance so far advanced by him: and will still preserve them from the Violation of their Rights, which they have here asserted, and from all other Attempts upon their Religion, Laws and Liberties.

The said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons Assembled at Westminster, Do Resolve,

That William and Mary Prince and Princess of Orange be, and be Declared King and Queen of England, France and Ireland, and the Dominions thereto belonging, to hold the Crown and Royal Dignity of the said Kingdoms and Dominions, to them the said prince and princess during their Lives, and the Life of the Survivor of them: And that the sole and full Exercise of the Regal power be only in, and Exercised by him the said Prince of Orange, in the Names of the said Prince and Princess during their Joynt Lives: And after their Deceases, the said Crown and Royal Dignity of the said Kingdoms and Dominions, to be to the Heirs of the Body of the said Princess. And for Default of such Issue, to the Princess Ann of Denmark, and the Heirs of her body: And for Default of such Issue, to the Heirs of the Body of the said Prince of Orange.

And they do pray the said Prince and Princess of Orange, to accept the same accordingly.

And that the Oaths hereafter mentioned be taken by all Persons of whom the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy might be required by Law, in stead of them: And that the said Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy may be Abrogated.

I, A. B. do sincerely Promise and Swear, That I will be Faithful, and bear true Allegiance to their Majesties King William, and Queen Mary, So help me God.

I, A. B. do Swear, That I do, from my Heart, Abhor, detest, and abjure as Impious and Heretical, this Damnable Doctrine and Position, That Princes Excommunicated or Depriv'd by the Pope, or any Authority of the See of Rome, may be Depos'd or Murder'd by the Subjects, or any other whatsoever: And I do declare, that no Foreign Prince, Person, Prelate, State or Potentate, hath, or ought to have, any Jurisdiction, Power, Superiority, Prebeminence or Authority Ecclesiastical or Spiritual, within this Realm. So help me God.

It is Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons now Assembled at Westminster, That this Declaration be Engrossed in Parchment, Enrolled among the Rolls of Parliament, and Recorded in Chancery.

P I N I S.

Re-printed in the Year 1689.